

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 and 8-20 are pending in the application, with claims 8-18 being withdrawn from consideration. In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1-6 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,657,289 ("Craig").

It is gratefully acknowledged that the Examiner has withdrawn his rejection of Claims 1-6 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §112.

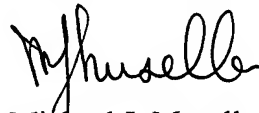
It is respectfully submitted that Claim 19 still remains under consideration. Claim 1 has been amended to further clarify and to emphasize the distinctions between the invention as claimed and the references cited by the Examiner.

A telephonic interview between Applicants' attorneys Michael J. Musella and Victor A. Grossman and the Examiner was conducted on April 6, 2005. During the interview, Claims 1-6 and 19-20 were discussed. Although no agreement with respect to the patentability of Claims 1-6 and 19-20 was reached, the Examiner stated that by amending independent Claim 1 so that it contains the limitation "such that at least a portion of the at least two substrates protrudes above the surface of the carrier substrate," would distinguish Claim 1 over the cited Craig reference. The Examiner also stated that after an official amendment is filed, the Examiner would conduct a preliminary search to further determine the patentability of the present invention over any possible newly-found art. The Examiner further stated that if any new prior art of record were found, then to promote prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner would provide a courtesy call to the Applicants' attorneys to discuss the newly-found art.

In light of the discussion above, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claim 1 overcomes the stated rejections. Without conceding the patentability per se of dependent Claims 2-6 and 19-20 it is respectfully submitted that these claims also overcome the rejections by virtue of their dependence on Claim 1. Claims 1-6, 19 and 20 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference or personal interview would facilitate resolution of any remaining matters, the Examiner may contact Applicants' attorney at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Musella", written in a cursive style.

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